



NEWS RELEASE

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PHYLLIS FONG CONFIRMED AS SBA INSPECTOR GENERAL

WASHINGTON -- Phyllis K. Fong has been confirmed by the U.S. Senate to serve as inspector general of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). Ms. Fong most recently served the agency as assistant inspector general for management and legal counsel.

“Phyllis Fong is one of SBA’s most distinguished career professionals,” said SBA Administrator Aida Alvarez. **“She has a depth and breadth of experience in the Inspector General’s office that will make her an exceptional leader for the position.”**

Ms. Fong has been with the SBA for 15 years. She instituted the first internal quality assessment process in the IG’s office in the early 1980s – several years before Congress required such reviews for agency “watchdogs.” Her efforts to organize and modernize the management functions of the office won her the SBA’s “Employee of the Year” award in 1989.

Ms. Fong has worked her way up the management ladder, starting in 1983 as associate counsel. In 1988, she assumed responsibility for the management and administration of the office as assistant inspector general for management and policy.

Ms. Fong will bring to the position a distinguished personal and family history of public service, including small business experience. Her great uncle, Senator Hiram Fong, was Hawaii’s first United States Senator, serving from 1959 to 1977. Her grandfather, Leonard Fong, was an auditor and CPA who held positions in local government in Honolulu and with the SBA during the Eisenhower administration. Her father, Dr. Bernard Fong, is a cardiologist and small businessman in Honolulu.

The Inspector General’s office is responsible for conducting independent audits and investigations and reviews of all SBA activities to prevent fraud and abuse and to recommend ways to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of SBA programs and operations.

Ms. Fong is a native of Hawaii and a graduate of Pomona College and Vanderbilt University School of Law. She resides with her husband, Paul Tellier, and their daughter, Elana, in Bethesda, Maryland.

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